

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday, September 3, 2004**

**CONTACT: David Moulton or**

**Mark Bayer (202) 225-2836**

## **REP. MARKEY CRITICIZES BUSH ADMINISTRATION FOR ELIMINATING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN A SOFT ECONOMY**

### **New Report Shows Current Jobs Slump in Massachusetts Worse than Last Recession, but Unemployment Insurance Less Generous**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. Ed Markey released a new report by the Joint Economic Committee Democrats showing that the Bush Administration cut short federal aid to the unemployed even though Massachusetts still has a significant jobs deficit.

**“President Bush is presiding over the most persistent jobs deficit since Herbert Hoover,” said Rep. Markey. “Yet he refused to extend unemployment benefits until the economy had restored the jobs lost. Instead of extending the temporary federal unemployment program until the jobs deficit was eliminated, he eliminated the program!”**

The report shows that despite considerable evidence that the ongoing jobs slump following the 2001 recession was worse than that following the 1990-91 recession, the recent temporary federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) program was both shorter in duration and less generous in the number of additional weeks of benefits provided to struggling workers who had lost their jobs.

**“Unemployment insurance is the lifeline that working families grab hold of when they are swept into a jobless sea by a failing economy,” said Markey. “Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has mastered the art of throwing a five foot lifeline to someone ten feet from shore.”**

During the 1990-91 Bush I recession, the temporary federal unemployment insurance program was not terminated until 2.9 million jobs had been created. In contrast, in the Bush II recession the President let the program lapse at a point where there were still 2.5 million fewer jobs than when the recession began. Today, there are still nearly 1 million fewer jobs than there were when President Bush took office, and Massachusetts still has a deficit of over 180,000 jobs.

During the eight months since the most recent program was allowed to expire by the President and the Republican leadership of Congress, a record number of unemployed workers – more than two million workers nationwide – have exhausted their regular state benefits without receiving additional aid. UI exhaustion levels remained 116 percent higher in Massachusetts than they were when the 2001 recession began.

**“The lack of additional federal benefits has left more than two million workers nationwide and 59,750 workers in Massachusetts to face the challenges of involuntary unemployment without vital assistance,” said Rep. Markey. “Without federal jobless benefits, these workers will demand less goods and services, further slowing the economy and perpetuating a longer period of job loss.”**

For further information, please visit the website at <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

# # #